GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2596
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
NUCLEAR FUEL TO TARAPUR POWER REACTORS
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US has taken strong exception to Russia`s shipment of nuclear fuel to India`s Tarapur power reactors as reported in the Hindustan Times dated February 18, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the stand of the Union Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a), (b) In a statement on 16 February 2001, the Deputy Spokesman of the US State Department deeply regretted that the Russian Federation supplied nuclear fuel to the Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS).The statement also drew attention to the so-called `guidelines` of the 39-nation Nuclear Suppliers` Group of which Russia is a member.

(c) All import of fuel for TAPS has always been under the IAEA safeguards regime.India has consistently and impeccably observed these safeguards. The latest import from Russia is similarly covered and the IAEA has been informed about it. Previous supplies of nuclear fuel to TAPS have been from the USA, France and China, all under the IAEA safeguards regime.